REMARKS

Claims 1 - 8 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 5 - 8 have been added. No new matter has been introduced.

In an Office Action dated April 7, 2004, the Examiner indicated that claims 1 - 4 were allowable. Claims 5 - 8 have been added and are consonant with claims 1- 4.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 - 8 are in condition for allowance.

In the April 7, 2004 Office Action, the Examiner indicated that a proposed drawing correction be made in regard to Figures 3 - 5. Applicants have amended Figs. 3 - 5, as illustrated in the red-line copies and the replacement copies.

Applicants have amended the title to address the Examiner's concern that the title is not descriptive.

An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is being filed concurrently with this Request for Continued Examination (RCE). The IDS includes references that were cited in foreign office actions for a related application along with English translations of the foreign office actions. The applicants present the IDS and references concurrently with an RCE because the Examiner closed prosecution on the merits.

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Applicants respectfully request an Office Action on the merits. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is requested to call either of the undersigned attorneys at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 488-7400 should the Examiner believe that such a telephone conference would advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

Date: August 30, 2004

By: Mark B. Kandrick

Mark R. Kendrick Registration No. 48,468

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Date: August 30, 2004

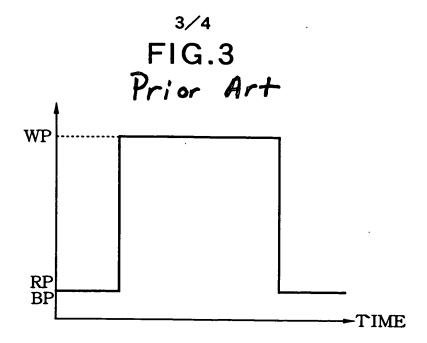
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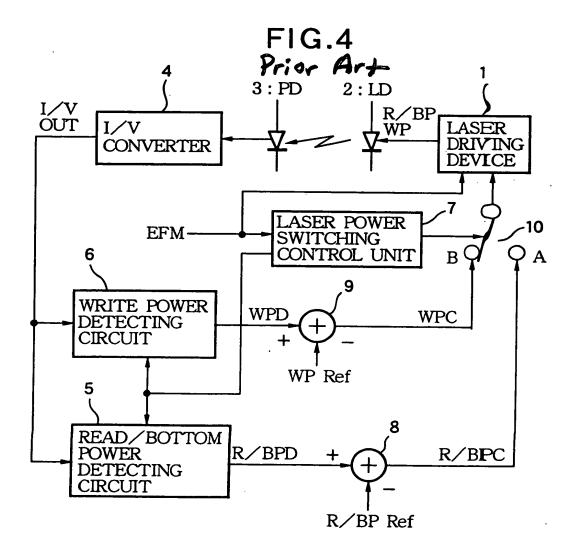




FIG.5 Prior Art

